

State of the Church in America

- 6,000 churches close doors every year
- 3,500 leave their church every day
- 1:10 pastors retire while still in ministry
- < 20% attend church regularly
- 15% of churches grow numerically

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State of the Church in America

- 2% are winning converts to Christ
- 9% of Evangelical Christians tithe to their church
- 800 new church plants survive each year
- 10,000 new churches would be needed annually to keep up with the growth of population/people groups

—James MacDonald, *Vertical Church*

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The Church at Ephesus
Surrounded by Idol Factories
Acts 19:26-28

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The Church at Ephesus
Place of Transformational Life Change
Acts 19:17-20, Ephesians 2:10

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The Church at Ephesus
Experienced Severe Spiritual Heart
Trouble *Revelation 2:1-5*

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... you have abandoned the love you
had at first. —*Revelation 2:4b ESV*

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“It is a disaster, but it’s a silent killer when a church leaves its first love. And the church doesn’t necessarily see it. Stop loving Christ and making Him the focus of everything, and you will descend in the compromise with the world, and the whole idea of loving Christ will disappear from your vocabulary. And then you’ll go from compromise to corruption. It starts here.” —John MacArthur

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“Evangelical Christianity has all but lost this perspective on the Christian life. Most people have the idea that the Christian life is about how much God loves me and wants to fulfill my dreams and my desires and my ambitions and my goals and my objectives. And what He wants to do is make something wonderful out of me, and lift me up, and elevate me, and fulfill all the hopes of my heart.”

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“It’s more about God loving me so much that He wants to do all of this than it is about me loving Him... In reality, the Christian life is about loving Christ. Is about loving Him singularly. It is about loving Him totally. It is about loving Him sacrificially. It is about loving Him obediently. It is about loving Him worshipfully. It is about loving Him in terms of service.”

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“It really is about loving Jesus Christ. That’s what it means to be a Christian. It’s that you now commit your life to loving Him.”
—John MacArthur

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Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. —Revelation 2:5a ESV

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▶ Road to Recovery is Strategic & Specific:
Confront Our Habitual Tendency
Toward Forgetfulness

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“A good memory is essential to faithful Christianity.”

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Road to Recovery is Strategic & Specific:
Confess Our Personal Need
for Forgiveness

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- You can go hours or days without having more than a passing thought of Him.
- You don't have a strong hunger for the Word; Bible reading is a “chore”—something to mark off your “to do” list.
- You are more concerned about physical health, well-being, and comfort than about the well-being and condition of your soul.

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- You crave human companionship more than a relationship with Christ.
- Your heart toward Christ is cold and indifferent; not tender as it once was, not easily moved by the Word, talk of spiritual things, etc.
- Your obedience and service are motivated and fueled by expectations of others or a desire to impress others, more than by passion for Christ.

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- Your service for Christ and others is motivated by a sense of duty or obligation.
- You have a hard time coming up with something fresh to share in a testimony service at church or when someone asks, “What's God been doing in your life?”
- You are critical or harsh toward those who are doctrinally off-base or living in sin.

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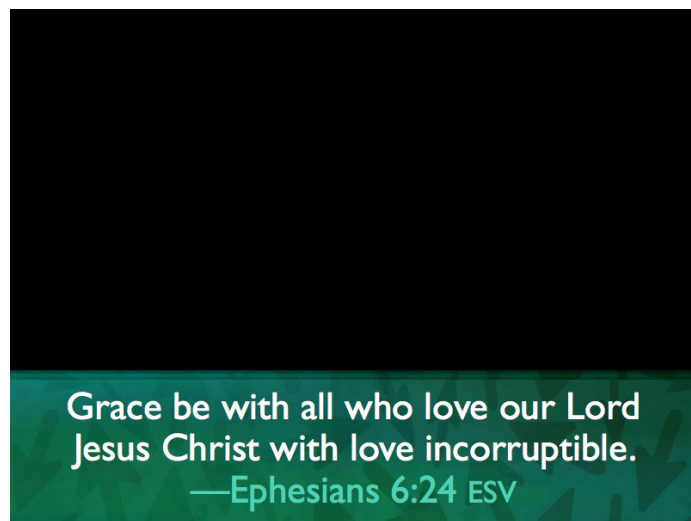
- You enjoy certain sins and want to hang onto them. You are unwilling to give them up for Christ.
- You are self-righteous—more concerned about sin in others' lives than in your own.
- You rarely have a desire or burden to give, when you hear of legitimate financial needs within the Body, your church, or a ministry.

—Nancy Leigh DeMoss

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